

University of Montana ScholarWorks at University of Montana

Max S. Baucus Speeches

Archives and Special Collections

11-15-1976

"A New Beginning", Keynote Address to the Second National Conference on Rural America

Max S. Baucus

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/baucus_speeches

Recommended Citation

Baucus, Max S., "'A New Beginning', Keynote Address to the Second National Conference on Rural America" (November 15, 1976).
Max S. Baucus Speeches. 23.
https://scholarworks.umt.edu/baucus_speeches/23

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and Special Collections at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Max S. Baucus Speeches by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Printing, Graphics & Direct Mail
ONBASE SYSTEM
Indexing Form

Senator * or Department*: **BAUCUS**

Instructions:

Prepare one form for insertion at the beginning of each record series.

Prepare and insert additional forms at points that you want to index.

For example: at the beginning of a new folder, briefing book, topic, project, or date sequence.

Record Type*: **Speeches & Remarks**

MONTH/YEAR of Records*: **November-1976**

(Example: JANUARY-2003)

(1) Subject*: **none**

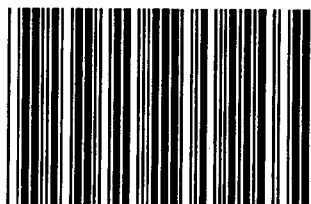
(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

(2) Subject* **Keynote Address to the Second National Conference on Rural America**

DOCUMENT DATE*: **11/15/1976**

(Example: 01/12/1966)

* "required information"



BAUCUS

A NEW BEGINNING

KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO THE
SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RURAL AMERICA
by *Cong. Max Baucus*
NOVEMBER 15, 1976

DES MOINES, IOWA

THANK YOU, _____, FOR YOUR GRACIOUS
INTRODUCTION. I DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO TALK WITH ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY -- ESPECIALLY SINCE
I BELIEVE THE WORK YOU DO HERE OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL
DAYS IS A REAL STEP TOWARD THE GOAL OF IMPROVING LIFE
FOR RURAL AMERICANS.

~~YOU KNOW~~, I'M FROM WESTERN MONTANA, AND MONTANA
IS A BEAUTIFUL LAND. ~~I DON'T THINK I'M BEING~~
~~OVERSTATING~~ ^{IF YOU'LL PARDON MY CHAUVENISM}
^{I'D LIKE} TO SAY THAT MONTANA IS FILLED WITH SOME
OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS AND FORESTS, ...AND
FARM LANDS...ANYWHERE ON EARTH.

^{BUT,}
ONE THING MONTANA IS NOT FILLED WITH IS STANDARD
METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS.

^{in Montana's Western Congressional District}
IN FACT, WE DON'T HAVE ANY.

I'M SURE ALL OF YOU ARE AWARE THAT THE NOTATION
OF "STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA" IS
BUREAUCRATIC LONG-HAND FOR A "BIG TOWN." WE DON'T
HAVE ANY TRUELY BIG TOWNS, AND FRANKLY, WE IN MONTANA
PREFER TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

^{AND YET,}
IF THERE IS ONE POINT I THINK ALL OF US IN THIS
ROOM NEED TO FORCE THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY TO UNDERSTAND,
IT'S THAT THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH NOT BEING STANDARD,

NOT BEING METROPOLITAN, AND NOT BEING STATISTICAL.

> MY INVOLVEMENT TO SAVE RURAL AMERICA BEGAN
TWO YEARS AGO WHEN I WALKED ACROSS MONTANA. SOME
~~I HAD MENTIONED~~ THE PICTURE ~~YOU SEE~~ OF ME IN THE ~~OF YOU MAY HAVE SEEN~~

CONFERENCE ISSUE OF RURAL AMERICA ^{THAT} WAS TAKEN AS I WALKED
HUNDREDS OF MILES ACROSS WESTERN MONTANA, MEETING WITH
PEOPLE WHO SENT ME TO CONGRESS. THAT HIKE WAS ONE OF
THE MOST VALUABLE THINGS I HAVE EVER DONE IN MY LIFE.

I MET ^{WORKING PEOPLE} ~~LABORERS~~ AND BUSINESSMEN, CONSERVATIVES AND
LIBERALS, TOWNSFOLK AND FARMERS. AND WHILE THEY WERE
ALL DIFFERENT, THEY USUALLY SHARED ONE THING -- A DEEP
APPRECIATION FOR THE BENEFITS OF RURAL LIFE. THEY HAVE
A COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THAT LIFE WITHOUT
LOSING THE OPEN SPACE...THE QUIET...AND THE SENSE OF
INDIVIDUAL WORTH THAT CAN GET SWALLOWED UP WITH URBANIZATION.

I CHOSE TO WALK IN ORDER TO GET A BETTER IDEA OF
THE DIVERSITY OF WESTERN MONTANA'S LAND AND PEOPLE.
DRIVING MANY OF THOSE ROADS WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN ME
THERE MUCH FASTER. ^{WITH AIRLINE SCHEDULES AS THEY ARE} AND ^A FLYING FROM PLACE TO PLACE ^{BY PLANE}
MIGHT HAVE MEANT CONNECTING FLIGHTS THROUGH MEXICO
CITY.

BUT I DON'T NEED TO TELL ANY OF YOU ABOUT GOOD
PEOPLE OR BAD ROADS. MOST OF YOU HERE TODAY HAVE
WALKED YOUR OWN MILES AND DEVELOPED A STRONG FEELING
FOR BOTH THE PROBLEMS AND PROMISE OF RURAL AMERICA;

^{TOO OFTEN} EVEN THOSE OF US ^A STUCK BEHIND A DESK IN THE CITY
CAN GET A GOOD FEELING FOR THE MASSIVE PROBLEMS FACING
RURAL AMERICA BY READING NEWSPAPERS AND WATCHING THE
FAILURE OF OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO ADEQUATELY TACKLE

PAUSE
RURAL PROBLEMS.

WHEN I WAS FIRST ASKED TO SPEAK HERE TODAY ABOUT A NEW BEGINNING, I WONDERED WHAT THERE WAS NEW TO TALK ABOUT. A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, WHEN THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RURAL AMERICA CONVENED IN WASHINGTON, D.C., PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY CAME TOGETHER TO GIVE FOCUS AND DIRECTION TO A MULTITUDE OF RURAL PROBLEMS. THAT CONFERENCE PRODUCED A DOCUMENT CALLED, "TOWARDS A PLATFORM FOR RURAL AMERICA." ALL ACROSS THE BOARD, IN HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, HEALTH SERVICES, EMPLOYMENT, FARMING, AND EVERY OTHER ASPECT OF RURAL LIFE AND THE RURAL ECONOMY, THE PROBLEMS IT LISTED WERE DETAILED AND DEPRESSING. MOST OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE IN THIS DOCUMENT WERE ACCURATE AND PROPERLY DIRECTED. BUT, AS YET, VERY FEW OF THEM HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT. ^{THEREFORE} THE QUESTION IS, ~~BEFORE~~, WHAT NEW BEGINNING TODAY?

FOR EXAMPLE:

- FORTY-FOUR PERCENT OF OUR COUNTRY'S POOR PEOPLE STILL LIVE IN SMALL TOWNS AND RURAL AREAS AND ^{YET} STILL RECEIVE ONLY TWENTY-SEVEN PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL OUTLAYS FOR WELFARE AND POVERTY.
- PERSON FOR PERSON, FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO THE POOR IN RURAL AREAS IS STILL LESS THAN HALF THAT TO THE POOR IN THE CITIES.
- RURAL AREAS HAVE ALMOST TWO-THIRDS OF THE NATION'S SUBSTANDARD HOUSING, BUT ONLY ONE-FIFTH OF THE NATION'S FEDERAL HOUSING DOLLARS.

THERE ARE NO FEDERAL FUNDS GOING INTO RURAL PUBLIC

TRANSPORTATION, AND MANY POOR RURAL FAMILIES DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO AN AUTOMOBILE. THIS IS TRUE DESPITE THE FACT THAT ALMOST HALF OF THE ELDERLY PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS ARE NOT ~~ELDERLY~~ LICENSED TO DRIVE.

● HEALTH CARE IS EVEN MORE OF A PROBLEM: THERE ARE ALMOST FIVE TIMES AS MANY PEOPLE FOR EACH DOCTOR IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AS THERE ARE IN THE CITIES, AND THE NUMBER OF COUNTIES WITHOUT A SINGLE PHYSICIAN HAS ACTUALLY BEEN INCREASING RATHER THAN DECREASING.

IN SHORT, REMOTE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACIES ARE NOT BEING RESPONSIVE. PEOPLE BORN, RAISED, EDUCATED AND NOW EMPLOYED IN THE CITIES, ARE SETTING POLICIES FOR THE WHOLE COUNTRY -- POLICIES FORMED WITH THE CITIES IN MIND, BUT IMPLEMENTED NATION WIDE AND OFTEN SHORTING RURAL OR LESS POPULATED AREAS.

IT IS UP TO CONGRESS AND THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TO CHANGE THIS.

THESE PROBLEMS CUT ACROSS EVERY ISSUE, INVOLVING BOTH THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING.

THE SCORECARD SHOWS THAT LARGE IS BEATING SMALL AND THAT CITIES ARE TAKING OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE. IN SHORT, WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS AIMED AT HELPING RURAL AMERICA, THE SCORECARD DOES NOT LOOK TOO GOOD.

THESE PROBLEMS CUT ACROSS EVERY ISSUE INVOLVING BOTH QUALITY OF LIFE AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING. FOR EXAMPLE, THE FAMILY FARM, WHICH KEEPS A MUCH HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF ITS PROFITS IN RURAL AREAS THAN DOES THE CORPORATE FARM, IS CONTINUING TO BE GOBBLED UP BY CORPORATE LAND HOLDINGS.

THE SCORECARD SHOWS THAT LARGE IS BEATING SMALL, AND THAT CITIES ARE TAKING OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE. IN SHORT, WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS AIMED AT HELPING RURAL AMERICA, THE SCORECARD DOES NOT LOOK ~~VERY~~ GOOD. WHAT THEN, 18 MONTHS AFTER THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE, IS OUR NEW BEGINNING? WHY, DESPITE THE DEPRESSING STATISTICS, DO I THINK THAT THIS CONFERENCE MARKS THE STARTING POINT OF SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING IMPORTANT, AND SOMETHING VERY, VERY GOOD? I AM OPTIMISTIC FOR TWO BASIC REASONS.

FIRST OF ALL, STANDING HERE IN FRONT OF THIS GROUP, I SEE THE FIRST STAGE OF A NEW RURAL MOVEMENT, A COALITION OF PEOPLE WHO CAN SENSE IN EACH OTHER SOME COMMON THREADS OF HOPE AND UNDERSTANDING. YOU ARE NOT PEOPLE WHO HAVE COME TOGETHER TO TRADE STATISTICS AND MOURN THE DEMISE OF RURAL AMERICA. YOU ARE HERE TO CONSOLIDATE THE EXPERIENCES OF THE LAST TWO YEARS, DISCOVER WHAT WORKED AND DIDN'T WORK, AND GET SOMETHING DONE.

THE LAST TWO YEARS HAVE SEEN THE RISE OF WORKING RURAL COALITIONS. MOST COALITIONS ARE LOOSE STRUCTURES, CONTAINING COMPETING POLITICAL, PRACTICAL, AND IDEOLOGICAL OPINIONS. THERE IS NO FULLY SHARED CONSENSUS ABOUT WHAT IS RIGHT FOR RURAL AMERICA. BUT I AM BEGINNING TO SENSE A SHARED VISION ABOUT THE POTENTIAL OF RURAL AMERICA AND THE PATH WE MUST TAKE TO REALIZE THAT SHARED VISION.

~~ESTABLISHING STRUCTURES FOR RURAL ADVOCACY IS A DIFFICULT PROCESS.~~ ^{MOREOVER,} IN CONGRESS, THE CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS IS FINALLY GETTING ITSELF TOGETHER. WE ARE ABOUT A HUNDRED CONGRESSMEN REPRESENTING WIDELY DIVERSE DISTRICTS AND OFTEN REPRESENTING STRONGLY COMPETING ONES AT THAT. ALL WE REALLY HAVE IN COMMON IS A PREDOMINANTLY RURAL CONSTITUENCY AND THE COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT CONGRESS IS PRIMARILY CONTROLLED, WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, BY THE OTHER 300-ODD CONGRESSMEN WHO COME FROM BASICALLY URBAN DISTRICTS. BUT WE NOW HAVE AN AGENDA AND ARE WORKING TOGETHER ON IT.

^{NEW} EVEN MORE ENCOURAGING, THERE ARE ORGANIZATIONS NOW ² BEING SET UP TO HELP SOLVE CRITICAL PROBLEMS THAT WERE NOT EVEN RECOGNIZED ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO. FOR EXAMPLE, THE COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION RECENTLY FUNDED THE CENTER FOR APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY IN BUTTE, MONTANA. WE FOUGHT HARD FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS CENTER.

IT WAS CLEAR THAT NO ORGANIZATION HAD BEEN GIVEN THE SPECIFIC MANDATE OF DEVELOPING SMALL SCALE TECHNOLOGY

ALTERNATIVES THAT ARE APPROPRIATE FOR POOR PEOPLE, RURAL PEOPLE, AND PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN BOTH CONSERVING THE WORLD'S ENERGY RESOURCES AND DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGY ON A SCALE THAT IS NEITHER DEHUMANIZING NOR DESTRUCTIVE OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

~~ONLY RECENTLY HAS THERE BEEN A SHARED FEELING ABOUT~~
~~WITH~~ ~~AT REVITALIZED CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS, AND NEW PRO-~~
~~A RURAL AGENDA. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT WE HAVE FOUR~~
~~MUST NOW FOCUS ON FOUR PRIMARY GOALS:~~
~~PRIMARY GOALS.~~ FIRST, RURAL AMERICA MUST RECEIVE A FAIR
SHARE OF OUR NATIONAL RESOURCES. THIS IS ESSENTIALLY
A POLITICAL PROBLEM.

← ~~edit~~
GRAMS
PO's

7e
FOR EXAMPLE, I AM THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING WHO COMES FROM A PRIMARILY RURAL DISTRICT. THUS, WHEN THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAM WAS RECENTLY RESUMED AFTER A PERIOD OF PUBLIC DISFAVOR, I HAD TO FIGHT FOR AN ADEQUATE SHARE OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING POT FOR RURAL AREAS AND FOR A SEPARATE SHARE FOR INDIAN HOUSING. IT WASN'T JUST A MATTER OF FIGHTING FOR A SHARE. MANY URBAN CONGRESSMEN ARE UNABLE TO EVEN THINK OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAM AS SOMETHING THAT EXISTS IN RURAL AMERICA. YET, RURAL AREAS, SUCH AS MONTANA, HAVE SOME OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMS IN THE COUNTRY. WE AVOID THE SCANDALS AND DEHUMANIZING CONSTRUCTION MISTAKES OF OUR LARGER CITIES.

REPRESENTING WIDELY DIVERSE DISTRICTS AND OFTEN REPRESENTING STRONGLY COMPETING ONES.

WE REALLY HAVE JUST TWO THINGS IN COMMON IN THE RURAL CAUCUS: EACH OF US IS FROM A PREDOMINANTLY RURAL AREA, AND EACH OF US SHARES THE COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT CONGRESS IS PRIMARILY CONTROLLED, WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, BY ANOTHER 300-ODD CONGRESSMEN WHO COME FROM BASICALLY URBAN DISTRICTS.

BUT WE NOW HAVE AN AGENDA, AND WE ARE NOW WORKING TOGETHER ON IT.

ONLY RECENTLY HAS THERE BEEN A SHARED FEELING ABOUT A RURAL AGENDA. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT WE HAVE FOUR PRIMARY GOALS: FIRST, RURAL AMERICA MUST RECEIVE A FAIR SHARE OF OUR NATIONAL RESOURCES.

SECOND, WE MUST DEVELOP BETTER DELIVERY SYSTEMS FOR RURAL ORIENTED PROGRAMS.

THIRD, RURAL AMERICA MUST BE DEVELOPED TO ITS FULL ECONOMIC POTENTIAL.

FOURTH, THE UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE STYLE OF RURAL AMERICA MUST BE CHERISHED AND PRESERVED.

I'D LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT HERE TO DISCUSS A FEW OF THESE GOALS.

FIRST, I SAID THAT RURAL AMERICA MUST RECEIVE A FAIR SHARE OF OUR NATIONAL RESOURCES. THIS MEANS THAT

WHEN THE POSTAL SERVICE DECIDES TO MAKE UP FOR A WASTEFUL MECHANIZATION BINGE BY CUTTING BACK ON SERVICE, THAT IT BE FORCED TO TREAT ALL AMERICANS THE SAME AND NOT JUST CHOP OFF SERVICE TO RURAL AREAS BY CLOSING HUNDREDS OF THIRD AND FOURTH POST OFFICES.

THIRD AND FOURTH CLASS POST OFFICES.

TO CITE ANOTHER EXAMPLE, I AM THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING WHO COMES FROM A PRIMARILY RURAL DISTRICT.

^{ALSO}
THIS MEANS THAT WHEN THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMS ARE ^{WE GET} ~~WAS RECENTLY RESUMED, I HAD TO FIGHT FOR~~ AN ADEQUATE SHARE FOR RURAL AREAS AND FOR A SEPARATE SHARE FOR INDIAN HOUSING.

^{IT'S NOT}
~~BE IT WASN'T~~ JUST A MATTER OF FIGHTING FOR A SHARE, HOWEVER. MANY URBAN CONGRESSMEN ~~WERE AND~~ ARE UNABLE TO EVEN THINK OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAM AS SOMETHING THAT EXISTS IN RURAL AMERICA. THIS IS TRUE EVEN THOUGH RURAL AREAS, SUCH AS MONTANA, HAVE SOME OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMS IN THE COUNTRY -- WITHOUT SCANDALS AND WITHOUT THE DEHUMANIZING CONSTRUCTION MISTAKES OFTEN SEEN IN OUR LARGER CITIES.

THE SECOND MAJOR GOAL I MENTIONED FOR RURAL AMERICA IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF BETTER DELIVERY SYSTEMS FOR RURAL ORIENTED PROGRAMS. THIS IS NOT A POLITICAL PROBLEM LIKE THE PROBLEM OF RESOURCE ALLOCATION WHICH I JUST DESCRIBED. IT IS A LONG-TERM GOAL REQUIRING HARD WORK AND EDUCATION. THE CONFERENCE ISSUE OF THE RURAL AMERICA NEWSLETTER IS FILLED WITH THESE EFFORTS, AND I'M PLEASED THAT THIS ORGANIZATION WILL BE FUNDED BY HUD TO MONITOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

I NOTED THAT ELSEWHERE ON THE NEWSLETTER'S FRONT PAGE, ARTICLES MENTIONED THAT HUD AND USDA ARE PLANNING A JOINT DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FOR HOUSING AND

THE SECOND MAJOR GOAL FOR RURAL AMERICA IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF BETTER DELIVERY SYSTEMS FOR RURAL ORIENTED PROGRAMS. THIS IS NOT A POLITICAL PROBLEM, BUT A LONG-TERM PROCESS OF HARD WORK AND EDUCATION. THE CONFERENCE ISSUE OF THE RURAL AMERICA NEWSLETTER IS FILLED WITH THESE EFFORTS. ^{FOR EXAMPLE} THIS ORGANIZATION WILL BE FUNDED BY HUD TO MONITOR ITS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

ELSEWHERE ON THE FRONT PAGE, HUD AND USDA ARE PLANNING A JOINT DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR HARD-TO-REACH LOW-INCOME RURAL PEOPLE. HUD AND USDA ARE ALSO BEGINNING TO COOPERATE ON THE DELIVERY OF SECTION 8 FUNDS TO RURAL AREAS. THIS MIGHT NOT HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE. BUT ^{WHEELS} ~~TEETH~~ HAVE BEEN SET IN MOTION, AND RURAL AMERICA'S PROBLEMS CAN NOW BE ADDRESSED BY THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY IN A STRUCTURED WAY.

ON THE INSIDE PAGE, I SEE THAT HEW HAS LAUNCHED A RURAL HEALTH INITIATIVE. WHILE THIS ALSO IS MODEST IN SCOPE, THE MERE FACT THAT PROGRAMS ARE BEING ESTABLISHED MEANS THAT RURAL PROBLEMS HAVE BEGUN TO CROSS THE THE THRESHOLD OF INSTITUTIONAL AWARENESS IN WASHINGTON.

THE THIRD GOAL IS THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS. HERE ALSO, I THINK THAT VALUABLE INFORMATION WILL BE EXCHANGED AT THIS CONFERENCE AND IN OTHER NEWLY DEVELOPED FORUMS. THIS WILL ALLOW PEOPLE TO GO BACK

HOME AND APPROACH THE PROBLEMS OF DECLINING RURAL ECONOMIES WITH A BROADER PROSPECTIVE THAN THAT OF EITHER CORPORATE PROFITS OR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.

FOURTH, THE RURAL MOVEMENT MUST FOCUS ON THE PRESERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT. THERE IS NO SENSE IN FIGHTING FOR RURAL AMERICA UNLESS WE CAN PRESERVE THOSE ASPECTS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE THAT MAKE OUR RURAL AREAS A UNIQUELY WORTHWHILE PLACE TO LIVE.

AND, FINALLY, THESE FOUR GOALS OF A FAIR SHARE, BETTER DELIVERY SYSTEMS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND PRESERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF RURAL AREAS MUST BE PURSUED WITH DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF THE PROCESSES AND A SOLID AWARENESS OF OUR INTERDEPENDENCE.

IN SUM, THEN, WE HAVE A LARGE SET OF DEPRESSING STATISTICS ABOUT RURAL AMERICA'S PROBLEMS. BUT WE ALSO HAVE THE RECENT DEVELOPMENT OF INTERDEPENDENT WORKING GROUPS TO SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS. THERE HAVE BEEN MASSIVE PROBLEMS IN RURAL AMERICA FOR A LONG TIME AND THE DESIRE OF THIS GROUP TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM COALESCED IN APRIL OF 1975.

WHAT'S NEW IN NOVEMBER OF 1976? AT THE RISK OF BELABORING THE OBVIOUS, IT'S BEEN A HARD STRUGGLE AND WE'VE COME DOWN A LONG, HARD ROAD. FOR THE LAST EIGHT YEARS, WE'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH LEADERS WHO HAVE BEEN INSENSITIVE AND CALLOUS TO HUMAN NEEDS. THE POOR AND DISINFRANCHISED HAVE TAKEN A BEATING EVERYWHERE,

I THINK THAT ALL OF US IN ELECTIVE OFFICE OFTEN
SEEM COMPELLED TO AVOID CANDID DISCUSSION IN THIS AREA.

I KNOW THAT IT IS MUCH EASIER FOR ME TO STAND HERE AND
TELL YOU THAT RURAL AMERICA CAN HAVE BOTH A VITAL
ECONOMY AND A PROTECTED ENVIRONMENT, THAN IT IS FOR
ME TO TELL YOU HOW WE CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS.

FRANKLY, I DON'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS, ^{HERE. I} ~~KNOW~~ KNOW
THAT WE OFTEN WILL HAVE TO MAKE TRADE-OFFS, AND I WORRY
THAT WHENEVER WE TRADE AWAY TRADITIONALLY PASTORAL
ENVIRONMENT, WE MAY BE TRADING AWAY SOMETHING WE CAN
NEVER GET BACK.

I HOPE THAT ALL OF US HAVE THE WISDOM WE WILL
NEED IN FUTURE YEARS TO MAKE THESE TOUGH DECISIONS --
TO DECIDE WHAT IS BEST, BOTH FOR GOOD ECONOMICS AND FOR
THE LIFE STYLES WHICH WE CHERISH FOR OUR CHILDREN.

ONE THING THAT IS ENCOURAGING IS THAT THERE ARE
NOW ORGANIZATIONS BEING SET UP TO HELP SOLVE CRITICAL
PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA WHICH WERE NOT EVEN RECOGNIZED
A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
RECENTLY FUNDED THE CENTER FOR APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY
IN BUTTE, MONTANA.

WE FOUGHT HARD FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS CENTER.
IT WAS CLEAR THAT NO ORGANIZATION HAD BEEN GIVEN THE
SPECIFIC MANDATE OF DEVELOPING SMALL SCALE TECHNOLOGY

I HAVE SO FAR MENTIONED ONE REASON WHY I AM OPTIMISTIC FOR A NEW BEGINNING - NAMELY TWO YEARS EXPERIENCE AND THE EMERGENCE OF A REVITALIZED CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS TOGETHER WITH SEVERAL RURAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS.

THE SECOND REASON WHY I HAVE HOPE AND AM OPTIMISTIC FOR A NEW BEGINNING IS BECAUSE WE HAVE A NEW PRESIDENT. WE HAVE A NEW OPPORTUNITY AN OPPORTUNITY WE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF.

AND BELIEVE ME, FROM MY WORK IN THE CONGRESS A NEW PRESIDENT WILL MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.

THIS MEANS WE MUST IMMEDIATELY TELL PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER THAT WE WANT A REAL SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE - A FARMER OR RANCHER WHO KNOWS AND IS FAMILIAR WITH THE PROBLEMS OF COSTS AND MARKETS FOR THE SMALL AND AVERAGE SIZE FARMER OR RANCHER, AND WHO IS SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF RURAL HOUSING. NOT ONE WHO TURNS HIS BACK ON RURAL AMERICANS FOR THE BENEFIT OF GIANT GRAIN TRADERS AND GIANT AGRIBUSINESS CONCERNS. CERTAINLY NOT ONE WHO CUTS BACK ON FUNDS AND PERSONNEL FOR THE FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION.

THIS MEANS WE MUST ALSO IMMEDIATELY TELL PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER THAT WE ALSO NEED AN HONEST TO GOODNESS SECRETARY OF INTERIOR, RATHER THAN A SECRETARY OF OIL OR COAL COMPANIES.

SURE WE HAVE TO DRILL FOR OIL AND MINE FOR COAL. BUT WE ALSO MUST MORE FULLY PROTECT OUR RURAL RESOURCES AND HELP SLOW DOWN THE COLONIZATION OF RURAL AMERICA WITH THE SELECTION OF A SECRETARY OF INTERIOR WHO WILL RECOMMEND PASSAGE, NOT VETO, OF NEXT YEAR'S STRIP MINING BILL.

-11-
AND, OF COURSE, WE MUST QUICKLY IMPRESS UPON OUR NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT THAT HIS ~~NEW~~ SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT EARMARK MORE ~~PER~~ HOUSING DOLLARS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS TO RURAL AND TO NON SMSA AREAS.

IN ADDITION TO A RURAL AMERICA CABINET, WE MUST JUST AS QUICKLY IMPRESS UPON PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF REORDERING OUR FEDERAL BUDGET MORE IN LINE WITH RURAL NEEDS.

FOR THE LAST EIGHT YEARS WE'VE BECOME NUMB WITH WORDS ~~LIKE~~ FROM THE WHITE HOUSE LIKE "FREEZE", "MORATORIUM", "IMPOUNDMENT", "RECISSION" AND "DEFERRAL" - ESSENTIALLY BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT HAS VETOED CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE

THERE IS VERY LITTLE TIME LEFT. AT THIS VERY MOMENT ~~GOV.~~ CARTER IS SELECTING THE CABINET AND REVISING THE BUDGET THAT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS IN JANUARY AND WHICH WILL HAVE ~~A~~ A PROFOUND EFFECT ON RURAL AMERICA.

WE MUST ALL IMMEDIATELY MOBILIZE OUR EFFORTS. WE CAN'T FOR A MOMENT REST ON THE ASSURANCE THAT OUR NEW PRESIDENT IS A PEANUT FARMER, OR BECAUSE HE WAS ELECTED WITH THE STRONG SUPPORT OF RURAL AND POOR PEOPLE, LARGE CORPORATIONS AND PARTICULARLY LARGE CITIES WILL BE PRESSING THEIR CLAIMS AS WELL.

WE HAVEN'T A MOMENT TO LOSE. LET THIS SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RURAL AMERICA BE THE CATALYST IN ORGANIZING THAT RURAL MESSAGE TO OUR NEW PRESIDENT. FOR BY ENLISTING THE SUPPORT OF RURAL SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN, GOVERNORS, MAYORS, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, STATE SENATORS AND LEGISLATORS WE WILL HAVE TAKEN BEST ADVANTAGE OF THIS NEW OPPORTUNITY OF A CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATIONS.

12-21-

THE WORK OF THIS CONFERENCE, AS I SEE IT IN THE PROGRAM AND HEAR IT BEING DISCUSSED BY MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY, IS TO GET DOWN TO THE ^{DETAILS} ~~SMALL POINTS~~. TO DECIDE EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED AND HOW WE SHOULD GO ABOUT GETTING IT. BECAUSE, FINALLY, THERE IS A CHANCE THAT ALL OF OUR PLANNING AND ALL OF OUR SMALL-SCALE EXPERIMENTS WITHIN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES CAN FINALLY INFLUENCE NATIONAL POLICY AND SPREAD BACK OUT ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN LARGE-SCALE WAYS.

→ EACH OF US HAS BEEN WORKING ON A VARIETY OF WAYS TO MAKE RURAL AMERICA A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE. THIS TIME, OUR WORK SESSIONS ON THE FAMILY FARM, RURAL HEALTH CARE, AND THE OTHER PROBLEMS FACING RURAL AMERICA MAY LEAD TO NATIONAL ACTION. THIS WOULD BE A REAL NEW BEGINNING.

AND REMEMBER WE HAVE A NATURAL ADVANTAGE. OUR RURAL ROOTS GROW DEEP INTO OUR SOIL. OUR FRIENDSHIPS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS MORE LASTING. IF WE BUILD UPON THIS MORE SOLID FOUNDATION OUR RESOLVE WILL BE STRONGER.